



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northeastern Area  
State & Private  
Forestry

180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

**File Code:** 3410 (NA-11-05)

**Date:** August 26, 2011

Subject: 2011 Aerial Detection Survey

To: Leanne M. Marten, Forest Supervisor  
Allegheny National Forest

This 2011 survey and analysis of forest insect and disease related damage on the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) is based on the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) aerial survey data. A total of 4,348 acres of visible damage was mapped within the proclamation boundary. The most common damage causing agent in 2011 was characterized as unknown defoliation. Based on field reports and the phone calls received by this office this likely is the result of a complex of native defoliators, of which the fall webworm was the most commonly reported defoliator.

Native defoliation was reported on both Ranger Districts, 1,994 acres on the Bradford District and 382 acres on the Marienville District. The fall webworm (FW), *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury) (Lepidoptera: Arctiidae), feeds on a wide variety of hosts including: hickory, walnut, maple, elm, and cherry. Damage from the FW occurs late in the year, and is usually cosmetic in its affects. As a result, no treatment is usually necessary.

Forest tent caterpillar (FTC), *Malacosoma disstria* Hubner (Lepidoptera: Lasiocampidae), was active this year with 1,110 acres of defoliation being observed across the forest. FTC is another native insect that primarily attacks sugar maple, oak, poplar and other deciduous hardwoods. FTC populations have caused extensive defoliation throughout Pennsylvania since 2006. Regionwide outbreaks of this insect have been documented since colonial times and last anywhere from 6 to 16 years in the northeast. Low winter temperatures, and predation by the pupal parasitoid, *Sarcophaga aldrichi* Parker (Diptera: Sarcophagidae), and a larval pathogen *Furia gastopachae* (Raciborski) Filotas, Hajek and Humber (Entomophthoromycotina: Entomophthorales) usually combine to reduce populations. However, FTC population declines are not expected in 2012, especially in these newly infested areas, it will likely take several seasons before adequate numbers of natural enemies can buildup and begin to control FTC populations.

District Rangers and other field-going personnel are reminded that they have the primary responsibility for on-the-ground, initial detection of insect and/or disease outbreaks. We ask that all field personnel continue to monitor for evidence of insect activity defoliation, discoloration, and mortality in their areas and report any insect and disease activity to the Morgantown Field Office. Activity such as an unusually high numbers of caterpillars present in the forest in early spring and summer may be a prelude to an expanded defoliation event.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments regarding this survey, please contact Rick Turcotte or Ann Steketee at (304) 285-1503.

Sincerely,

Robert Lueckel



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Field Representative

Morgantown Field Office

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD w/enclosures  
District Ranger, Marienville RD w/enclosures  
Andrea Hille, Forest Silviculturist

RMT/AKS

